

**Hurricane Harvey Response 2017
Community Liaison (CL) Report**

TO: Janetta Coats

FROM: Linda Watson, Maren Taylor, Trevor Urban, Gloria Vaughn

SUBJECT: Meeting with Texas Department of State Health Services-Cleveland Clinic,
Liberty County Emergency Management, HWT Church & Royal Shade
Baptist Church

COUNTY: Liberty County

DATE: September 13, 2017

Due: Daily 4:00 pm

SUMMARY:

- 10:00am: Met with Keely Sullivan, RN – Texas Department of State Health Services, Public Health Nurse for DSHS Cleveland Clinic, MC: 5682, 300 Campbell, Cleveland, TX 77327 (281-592-6714) and Hortencia (receptionist) who accepted EPA Fact Sheets to give to clients. She also requested we send her electronic copies (keely.sullivan@dshs.state.tx.us)
- Keely provided additional contacts and knowledge about affect communities and contacts within Liberty County. Specifically, she informed us that the Los Terrenos (Terrenos Houston) a predominately low-income Mexican community was in need of help, information and services. She told us how a citizen from the Terrenos Houston community came to her for assistance to interpret the FEMA letter that he received. He was unsure if the letter accepted or denied his claim. She also told us how the American Red Cross partnered with Walmart and gave out \$400 dollar vouchers to citizens. Unfortunately, many of the people who really needed the money were not present to receive it since the money was distributed without any proof of need. The original plan was to give the money out at the shelters but somewhere along the plan got changed and the distribution was instead set up at Walmart. In addition, she shared information how truck-loads of baby products (diapers, etc.) were distributed and later people were selling the products of Facebook.
- Keely also informed us that many of the people within Liberty County will not seek assistance because they are proud, hard-working and feel they can handle issues by themselves. They are not use to receiving any hand-outs and thus would likely refuse help unless it comes from

someone they know and trust. Therefore, Keely recommended we contact Pastor Charles Stoker at the Hi-Way Tabernacle Church since he is well respected and trusted within the community.

- Keely also recommend we speak with the Property Manager of Terrenos Houston, Savannah Carihfield because she would have a better idea of the community needs.
- Additional contacts provided by Keely included; Liberty Texas Agricultural Life Agent-Alexis Cordova, 936-334-3203 and Cleveland City Hall-Kelly McDonald (City Mayor) 281-592-2667
- The Team called Savannah Carihfield while we were at the DSHS Cleveland Clinic and scheduled a meeting with her for Friday, September 15, 2017 at 10:00am.
- Keely also recommend that we participate in an upcoming Community Health Resource Fair, sponsored by A2Z Dental, DSHS, and Cleveland Civic Center on Thursday, September 21, 2017 from 9am-1pm. The team filled out the vendor application and thus will have a table to distribute EPA Fact Sheets and provide information.
- Keely also provided us additional contact information (cell phone) for Tom Branch, Coordinator for the Liberty County Emergency Management. The team called and was successful with scheduling an appointment with him at 2pm.
- 11:40am - Arrived at the Terrenos Houston community to perform a drive through. Community is very poor however no clear evidence of flooding. While leaving the community the team drive by the American Red Cross Disaster Relief and we stopped and spoke with them. They were there to distribute food to the community (because they heard there were communities affected by the flood) to distribute food. They informed us they also distributed food to approximately 50-100 people the evening prior.
- 2:00pm - Met with Tom Branch, Coordinator for the Liberty County Emergency Management at 2400 Beaumont Ave, Liberty, TX (936-334-3219, 713-816-9898). He expressed is immediate needs include debris removal, shelter and mosquito control. Also indicated this was the 5th time Liberty County has been declared a Federal Disaster Area in the past 27 months. Most of the county uses well water and they do not have their own Health Department. Was very receptive to receiving information and we left one set of hard copies of the Fact Sheets and agreed to e-mail him electronic copies (tom.branch@co.liberty.tx.us) to share with the community when he received related subject inquiries. He indicated Facebook was his primary method of sharing information and will post the information of the page. He also indicated he Plumgrove community (population 600) was the hardest hit and we decided as a team to visit after the meeting. The Plumgrove community is located approximately 10 miles South of Cleveland and is the 3rd oldest city in Texas, consisting of both old and newer large size homes. Tom Branch also discussed contractor procurement issues he was having with debris pick up and indicated three (3) shelters were still operating with approximately 250-300 people. Also indicated most of the community uses septic systems. He indicated approximately 600 homes were affected and thus the Fact Sheets we provided would be helpful.
- Tom Branch indicated the EOC has a very good relationship with the community and he receives calls all the time from concerned citizens with questions. A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is being planned to open within the next 2 weeks.
- Team drove to Hi-Way Tabernacle Church, 108 County Road, Cleveland, TX (281-659-4875) and met Pastor Charles Stokes. Most of his congregation was flooded by waters from the Trinity River. Pastor was busy painting a deer house and spoke to us briefly. He was receptive to the information we provided and agreed to providing his e-mail (cwstoker@hotmail.com) for us to

send him electronic copies of the Fact Sheet. He said he would share with his congregation and community. He also recommended we share our information and Fact Sheets with Pastor Brad Dancer of the Royal Shade Baptist Church located a few miles from his church.

- The team drove to Royal Shade Baptist Church, 3304 CR 2274, Cleveland, TX 77327 to meet Pastor Brad Dancer. His congregation was primarily affected by the San Jacinta River. We were given his e-mail address (ruralshadebaptist@sbcglobal.net) to share Fact Sheet information.
- Team sent electronic copies to all above indicated e-mail addresses.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

COMMUNITY CONCERNS